

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (currently amended):** A fixing unit which is
2 detachably attached to an image forming apparatus, and fuses and
3 fixes an unfixed toner onto a recording medium, said fixing unit
4 comprising:

5 a gripping part which is provided outside said fixing
6 unit and is gripped when said fixing unit is attached to and
7 detached from said ~~fixing unit~~image forming apparatus;

8 a medium introducing port which is provided near said
9 gripping part and to which said recording medium is guided; and

10 a shutter which is provided slanted at a given angle
11 with respect to a gripping surface of said gripping part such
12 that said shutter has a fulcrum at a part thereof closer to said
13 gripping part at said medium introducing port, and is turnable
14 to a position to close said medium introducing port while
15 resisting the urging forces of springs.

1 **Claim 2 (original):** A fixing unit according to claim 1,
2 wherein said shutter is kept in a state that said shutter opens
3 said medium introducing port by said urging forces of said
4 springs, and said shutter closes said medium introducing port
5 while resisting said urging forces of said springs only when an
6 external force is applied from said gripping part to said
7 shutter.

1 **Claim 3 (original):** A fixing unit according to claim 1,
2 wherein said medium introducing port is linear in shape, and said
3 shutter is a plate-like member extending in a longitudinal
4 direction of said linear medium introducing port, and said
5 springs are coiled springs provided at both ends of said
6 plate-like shutter as viewed in said longitudinal direction.

1 **Claim 4 (original):** A fixing unit according to claim 1,
2 wherein said shutter is a transport guide for said recording
3 medium.

1 **Claim 5 (currently amended):** A fixing unit according to
2 claim 1, wherein said medium introducing port is provided in a
3 bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of
4 said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in
5 which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said
6 fixing deviceimage forming apparatus.

1 **Claim 6 (currently amended):** A fixing device comprising a
2 fixing unit which is detachably attached to an image forming
3 apparatus, and fuses and fixes an unfixed toner onto a recording
4 medium, said fixing unit including:

5 a gripping part which is provided outside said fixing
6 unit and is gripped when said fixing unit is attached to and
7 detached from said fixing unitimage forming apparatus;

8 a medium introducing port which is provided near said
9 gripping part and to which said recording medium is guided; and

10 a shutter which is provided slanted at a given angle
11 with respect to a gripping surface of said gripping part such
12 that said shutter has a fulcrum at a part thereof closer to said
13 gripping part at said medium introducing port, and is turnable
14 to a position to close said medium introducing port while
15 resisting the urging forces of springs, in which said medium
16 introducing port is provided in a bottom of said fixing unit such
17 that a longitudinal direction of said medium introducing port is
18 perpendicular to directions in which said fixing unit is attached
19 to and detached from said fixing device,

20 wherein in a state that said fixing unit is attached
21 to said fixing device, said shutter is kept in a state that said
22 shutter opens said medium introducing port by said urging forces
23 of said springs, and said recording medium is guided to said
24 medium introducing port, from a lower side of said fixing unit.

1 **Claim 7 (currently amended):** An image forming apparatus
2 comprising:

3 a fixing device which is detachably attached to a main
4 body of an image forming apparatus, and fuses and fixes an
5 unfixed toner onto a recording medium, said fixing unitdevice
6 comprising:

7 a medium introducing port, provided in said fixing
8 device, for introducing said recording medium from said main body
9 of said image forming apparatus to said fixing device; and

10 a recording medium guide for guiding said recording
11 medium to said medium introducing port when said recording medium
12 is introduced from said main body of said image forming apparatus

13 to said fixing device, said recording medium guide being provided
14 on said fixing device and near said medium introducing port, and
15 being turnable to a position to close said medium introducing
16 port when said fixing device is attached to or detached from said
17 image forming apparatus.

1 **Claim 8 (original):** An image forming apparatus according
2 to claim 7, wherein said recording medium guide includes coiled
3 springs at both ends thereof, and said coiled spring urges said
4 recording medium guide in a direction in which said recording
5 medium guide opens said medium introducing port.

1 **Claim 9 (original):** An image forming apparatus according
2 to claim 8, wherein said recording medium guide is held with said
3 coiled springs at a position where said recording medium guide
4 opens said medium introducing port, and said recording medium
5 guide is turned, while resisting the urging forces of said coiled
6 springs, when said recording medium guide is turned to a position
7 to close said medium introducing port.

1 **Claim 10 (currently amended):** An image forming apparatus
2 according to claim 7, wherein said fixing device includes
3 stoppers which come in contact with both ends of said recording
4 medium guide at a position where said recording medium guide
5 closes said medium introducing port.

1 **Claim 11 (currently amended):** An image forming apparatus
2 according to claim 8, wherein said fixing device includes

3 stoppers which come in contact with both ends of said recording
4 medium guide at a position where said recording medium guide
5 closes said medium introducing port.

1 **Claim 12 (currently amended):** An image forming apparatus
2 according to claim 9, wherein said fixing device includes
3 stoppers which come in contact with both ends of said recording
4 medium guide at a position where said recording medium guide
5 closes said medium introducing port.

1 **Claim 13 (original):** A fixing unit according to claim 2,
2 wherein said medium introducing port is linear in shape, and said
3 shutter is a plate-like member extending in a longitudinal
4 direction of said linear medium introducing port, and said
5 springs are coiled springs provided at both ends of said
6 plate-like shutter as viewed in said longitudinal direction.

1 **Claim 14 (original):** A fixing unit according to claim 2,
2 wherein said shutter is a transport guide for said recording
3 medium.

1 **Claim 15 (original):** A fixing unit according to claim 3,
2 wherein said shutter is a transport guide for said recording
3 medium.

1 **Claim 16 (currently amended):** A fixing unit according to
2 claim 2, wherein said medium introducing port is provided in a
3 bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of

4 said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in
5 which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said
6 ~~fixing device~~image forming apparatus.

1 **Claim 17 (currently amended):** A fixing unit according to
2 claim 3, wherein said medium introducing port is provided in a
3 bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of
4 said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in
5 which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said
6 ~~fixing device~~image forming apparatus.

1 **Claim 18 (currently amended):** A fixing unit according to
2 claim 4, wherein said medium introducing port is provided in a
3 bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of
4 said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in
5 which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said
6 ~~fixing device~~image forming apparatus.

1 **Claim 19 (currently amended):** A fixing unit according to
2 claim 15, wherein said medium introducing port is provided in a
3 bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of
4 said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in
5 which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said
6 ~~fixing device~~image forming apparatus.

1 **Claim 20 (currently amended):** A fixing unit according to
2 claim 13, wherein said shutter is a transport guide for said
3 recording medium, and

4 said medium introducing port is provided in a bottom
5 of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of said
6 medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in which
7 said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said ~~fixing~~
8 deviceimage forming apparatus.

1 **Claim 21 (new):** A fixing unit according to claim 1, said
2 fixing unit further comprising a heating roller heated by
3 electromagnetic induction.

1 **Claim 22 (new):** A fixing device according to claim 6,
2 wherein said fixing unit includes a heating roller heated by
3 electromagnetic induction.

1 **Claim 23 (new):** An image forming apparatus according to
2 claim 7, wherein said fixing device includes a heating roller
3 heated by electromagnetic induction.